

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T CAIRO 05446

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PORG UNSC ET SO EG
SUBJECT: HORN OF AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS -- TALKS WITH
- SADAT RE POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION

REF: (A) STATE 42000, (B) CAIRO 4926, (C) USUN 511,
- (D) LAGOS 1881, (E) MOGADISCIO 290, (F) CAIRO 5132

1. WHEN I MET WITH SADAT AND VP MUBARAK THIS MORNING, I BROUGHT THEM UP TO DATE ON HORN OF AFRICA DEVELOPMENTS. I RECALLED SADAT'S QUERY TO CHARGE MATTHEWS, THROUGH MUBARAK, WHETHER "ARRANGEMENTS" THAT HE AND PRESIDENT CARTER HAD DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON HAD BEEN WORKED OUT AND SAID WE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN AS TO WHAT EXACTLY HE HAD IN MIND. WE HAD ATTEMPTED, HOWEVER, TO PROVIDE ANSWERS WHICH I HAD GIVEN TO THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HIM. OUR CURRENT EFFORTS, I NOTED, ARE TO PERSUADE PRESIDENT SIAD TO AGREE TO WITHDRAW HIS FORCES FROM OGADEN WITH ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS FOR THE OGADANI POPULATION. WE HAVE INITIATED ACTION TO SEEK TO OBTAIN A UNSC RESOLUTION, PURPOSE OF WHICH TO GIVE STALLED OAU MEDIATION A BOOST. I PLANNED TO GIVE PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS

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OF SUCH A RESOLUTION TO ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI LATER IN THE DAY. GIVEN CLOSENESS OF SADAT'S RELATIONS WITH SIAD, ANYTHING THAT SADAT MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO TO URGE SIAD TO AGREE TO WITHDRAWAL WHILE THERE IS STILL TIME WOULD BE HELPFUL.

2. SADAT RECALLED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED HORN SITUATION

WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO HAD SHOWN HIM A LETTER TO FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD. SUBSEQUENTLY, DURING HIS PARIS STOPOVER, HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH GISCARD THE IDEA OF A TWO-TIER CONFERENCE -- ONE AFRICAN AND ONE ARAB -- TO HELP FIND A SOLUTION. GISCARD'S REACTION, SADAT CLAIMED, HAD BEEN FAVORABLE. STILL LATER, HOWEVER, FONMIN KAMEL HAD DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH QUAI D'ORSAY, WHICH HAD TAKEN A MORE NEGATIVE VIEW OF THE IDEA. KAMEL WAS TOLD THAT THE SITUATION HAS BEEN OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AND THAT SUCH A TWO-TIER CONFERENCE NO LONGER OFFERED PROSPECT.

3. SADAT RECALLED THAT WHILE ON HIS TRIP, HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM SIAD INDICATING THAT THE LATTER INTENDED TO RESIGN ON THE GROUNDS THAT THE WEST WAS LETTING SOMALIA DOWN AND SEEMED TO BE PREPARED TO ACQUIESCE IN A COMMUNIST TAKEOVER IN SOMALIA. HE, SADAT, HAD REPLIED THAT SIAD SHOULD NOT RESIGN. THE FACT THAT SIAD HAD LOST A BATTLE DID NOT MEAN DISASTER. AT THE SAME TIME, SADAT HAD SENT WORD TO SIAD RE PRESIDENT CARTER'S PROPOSAL FOR A CEASE-FIRE, SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE OGADEN, WITHDRAWAL OF MILITARY FORCES FROM BOTH SIDES AND SOME SORT OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN OGADEN. ACCORDING TO SADAT, SIAD REPLIED THAT HE WOULD NOT RESIGN AND HAD APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE PRESIDENT CARTER'S IDEAS AS CONVEYED THROUGH SADAT.

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4. SIAD HAD ALSO ASKED YESTERDAY TO VISIT CAIRO URGENTLY TODAY. SADAT HAD SUGGESTED THE VISIT BE POSTPONED FOR A FEW DAYS.

5. SADAT INDICATED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH THE IDEA OF TRYING TO DEFUSE THE HORN SITUATION THROUGH A UNSC RESOLUTION REVITALIZING THE OAU MEDIATION EFFORT AND ASKED THAT I DISCUSS DETAILS WITH ACTING FONMIN GHALI. EILTS

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